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FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 1943

THIS EMBARGO SHOULD BE RESPECTED OVERSEAS BY PREFACING  
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LANCE SERGEANT ROBERTSON, SCOTS GUARDS  
FOLLOWED LORD LYELL TO HIS DEATH

When the late Captain Lord Lyell of the Scots Guards won the V.C. in his last gallant charge against an enemy post near Jebel Bou Arada, on April 27, he was supported by the only men of his company not pinned by fire: a Sergeant, a Lance-Corporal and two Guardsmen.

The first of these men was Lance-Sergeant James Robertson, Scots Guards, of Waugh Avenue, Failsworth, Manchester. This brave man dashed after his company commander towards an enemy machine gun pit which Lord Lyell knocked out by lobbing a hand grenade into it, which destroyed the gun crew. It was at this time that Sergeant Robertson was killed, and both Guardsmen were wounded. It was left to the Lance-Corporal to give covering fire to Lord Lyell who, having dealt with the machine gun pit, was working his way round towards the 88 mm. gun pit, the remaining obstacle in the enemy post which was pinning his company's advance. It will be remembered that Lord Lyell was able to get in among the crew with the bayonet and kill a number of them before being overwhelmed and killed himself. This unfalteringly gallant charge against incalculable odds succeeded in silencing both guns and opening the way for the Scots Guards company's advance, with the result that its objective was taken.

Those who had seen Sergeant Robertson in action in North Africa have testified warmly to the splendid bravery of this Scots Guardsman. He held Lord Lyell in the highest esteem, and those who know him best are confident that it was proudly and willingly that he followed him to his death in that heroic charge which was to accomplish so much for the rest of the company.

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